135.   The method of claim 132, wherein the processor requests status information from a physical layer device by providing a physical layer device address.

136.   The method of claim 131, further comprising a register for receiving status information for one of more of the physical layer devices.

137.   The method of claim 131, wherein the processor receives an interrupt in the event of an activity change of a physical layer device.

138.   The method of claim 131, wherein the processor receives signaling data.

139. (amended) The method of claim 131, wherein the processor receives an interrupt that indicates that a signaling channel receiver or transmitter of a physical layer device needs to be processed by the processor.

140.   The method of claim 100, wherein data communicated to/from the communications medium is coupled to an HDLC controller.
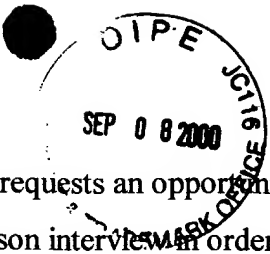
141.   The method of claim 140, wherein the data coupled to the HDLC controller comprises signaling data.

REMARKS

Claims 1-141 are in the application. Claims 1-57 were allowed. Claims 58-141 were rejected under Section 112 due to certain informalities noted by the Examiner.

Applicant has attempted herein to clarify claims 58 and 100 in an effort to address the informalities noted by the Examiner. Applicant notes that the amendment to claim 100 also clarifies the data buffering between the transmit memory and the communications medium, in accordance with the present invention. As for the amendment to claims 43, 85 and 127, Applicant has made this amendment for purposes of clarity, as the cascade port may be a part of the two (and thus coupled to "first and second isochronous hubs" seems more clear in this regard). As for the amendments to claims 55, 97 and 139, this amendment is to correct a typographical error ("need" changed to "needs").

No new matter has been added by this Amendment, and the amendments herein are submitted to the application in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

Applicant's attorney requests an opportunity to discuss this case with the Examiner by way of a telephone or in-person interview in order to address any additional questions, etc., that the Examiner may have.

Please charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0251 or backup deposit account 12-2175.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Loudermilk

Alan R. Loudermilk
Registration No. 32,788
Attorney for Applicant(s)

August 31, 2000
10950 North Blaney Ave., Suite B
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-342-1866

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this Amendment **(11 pages)** is being sent to the USPTO by First Class Mail, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the below date of deposit.					
Date of Fax	8/31/00	Name:	Karen Rogers	Signature of the Person Mailing the Documents:	*Karen Rogers*

11

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
Address : COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/173,582	10/16/98	HANNAH	VH-1098I

EXAMINER
DANG, TON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2713	8

DATE MAILED: 07/31/00

LM02/0731

ALAN R. LOUDERMILK
10950 N. BLANEY AVE.
SUITE B
CUPERTINO CA 95014

Due 8/31/00

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

DANG TON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1. ☒ The communication filed _____ is informal/non-responsive for the reason(s) checked below and should be corrected. **APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER OR UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE SET IN THE LAST OFFICE ACTION (WHICHEVER IS LONGER) WITHIN WHICH TO CORRECT THE INFORMALITY.**

 a. ☒ The amendment to claim(s) _____ , filed _____ , fails to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.121 and is accordingly held to be non-responsive. A supplemental paper correcting the informal portions and complying with the rule is required.

 b. ☐ The paper is unsigned. A duplicate paper or ratification, properly signed, is required.

 c. ☐ The paper is signed by _____ , who is not of record. A ratification or a new power of attorney with a ratification, or a duplicate paper signed by a person of record, is required.

 d. ☐ The communication is presented on paper which will not provide a permanent copy. A permanent copy, or a request that a permanent copy be made by the Office at applicant's expense, is required, see M.P.E.P. 714.07.

 e. ☐ Other

2. ☐ In accordance with applicant's request, **THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE FROM THE OFFICE ACTION DATED** _____ **IS EXTENDED TO RUN** _____ **MONTH(S).**
No further extension will be granted unless approved by the Commissioner. 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (b)

3. ☐ Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 which papers have been made of record in the file.

4. ☐ Other